

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR  
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Alexandria Division

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
FOR A SEARCH WARRANT AND ORDERS )  
PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(c)(1)(A) )  
AND 3122(a)(1) FOR THE 1) DISCLOSURE )  
OF LOCATION BASED SERVICES, )  
2) DISCLOSURE OF STORED )  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS RECORDS FOR )  
TELEPHONE NUMBER (202) 749-9443 )  
AND 3) INSTALLATION OF A PEN )  
REGISTER AND TRAP AND TRACE DEVICE )

(Under Seal)

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1:17sw 193

APR 11 2017

Affidavit in Support of Application for Search Warrant

I, Jacob D. Farber, being duly sworn, state the following:

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and have been so employed since January 10, 2016. As such, I am an “investigative or law enforcement officer of the United States” within the meaning of Section 2510(7) of Title 18, United States Code, that is, an officer of the United States empowered by law to conduct investigations of and to make arrests for offenses enumerated in 18 U.S.C. §§ 1951 and 924(c).

2. During my employment as an FBI Special Agent, I have been assigned to investigate violations of federal law, including robberies of banks, credit unions, and commercial establishments. I have training and experience in the area of robbery investigations, cellular telephone analysis, interview and interrogation, and evidence recovery. I am currently assigned to the Washington Field Office, Northern Virginia Violent Crimes Task Force.

3. This affidavit is submitted in support of an application for a search warrant, an order for the disclosure of location-based services and stored telecommunications records, and an

order for the installation of a pen register and trap and trace device for the cellular telephone number (202) 749-9443, serviced by Sprint Spectrum LP (as defined in the Application and hereinafter as "SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER"), pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41(d)(1) and Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2703(c) and 3122(a). For the reasons described herein, there is probable cause to believe that (1) DESMAR RASHAD GAYLES (hereinafter "GAYLES") has interfered with commerce by robbery and has used, carried, and brandished a firearm during and in relation to crimes of violence, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951(a) and 924(c), respectively; (2) that GAYLES is using a device assigned the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER; and (3) that disclosure of prospective location-based data for the device assigned the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER will assist law enforcement in effectuating GAYLES' arrest and in securing evidence of GAYLES' unlawful activities.

4. The facts described below establish probable cause to believe that the disclosure of prospective location-based data for the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER will assist law enforcement in locating GAYLES' in order to effectuate an arrest and in securing evidence of GAYLES' unlawful activities.

5. The factual information supplied in this affidavit is based upon my investigation and information provided to me orally and in written form by other law enforcement officers. All observations not personally made by me were relayed to me by the individuals who made them or are based on my review of reports, documents, and physical evidence obtained during the course of this investigation. This affidavit contains information necessary to support probable cause. It is not intended to include each and every fact and matter observed by me or known to the United States.

**Factual Basis Supporting Probable Cause**

6. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement agencies have been investigating a series of armed robberies of commercial establishments from November 1, 2016, to March 29, 2017. During this time period, eleven commercial establishments in the Eastern District of Virginia and six commercial establishments in the District of Maryland have been robbed at gunpoint by two or three black men. During the robberies, one or two of the subjects have brandished a handgun. Investigators believe that all of these robberies are connected for various reasons, including the physical description of the armed robbers, the description of the firearms used, the *modus operandi*, and the articles of clothing and shoes worn by the robbers. In addition, the subjects are believed to have committed three armed carjackings because two of the vehicles that were stolen were used as getaway vehicles for several of the robberies.

7. Investigators believe that ANDREW DUNCAN (hereinafter "DUNCAN") and DESMAR RASHAL GAYLES (hereinafter "GAYLES") participated in some, if not all, of the armed robberies described herein. DUNCAN and GAYLES were recently arrested in Washington, D.C. in connection with other offenses. At the time of his arrest, DUNCAN was wearing a distinctive Nike sweatshirt that appears identical to a sweatshirt worn by one of the robbers during many of the armed robberies. In addition, DUNCAN has posted on his Facebook page photographs of himself wearing two different jackets that appear identical to jackets worn by one of the subjects during many of the armed robberies. One of the jackets is a distinctive dark blue Helly Hansen jacket with two white H's in the back, white rectangular strips on the shoulders, a white logo on the front right breast, and a white zipper in the front. The other jacket is a dark-colored parka with a fur-lined hood. As for GAYLES, in a photograph posted by

DUNCAN on his Facebook page on March 19, 2017, GAYLES is wearing a pair of black pants with the Helly Hansen logo (“HH”) above his right knee and tan boots that are extremely similar, if not identical, to pants and boots worn by one of the robbers during some of the armed robberies. In addition, on March 18, 2017, a surveillance camera at a market near GAYLES’ residence in Washington, D.C., captured GAYLES wearing the black Helly Hansen pants as well as a gray hooded coat that bears a striking resemblance to the gray hooded coat worn by one of the suspects in several of the armed robberies.

The Armed Robberies of Commercial Establishments and the Armed Carjackings

8. On November 1, 2016, at approximately 12:41 a.m., Fairfax County police officers responded to a report of an armed robbery at the 7-Eleven located at 2305 Huntington Avenue in Alexandria, Virginia, within the Eastern District of Virginia. Witnesses at the scene reported that three black men had robbed the 7-Eleven shortly before the police arrived. One employee stated that all three men were wearing dark-colored jackets or sweatshirts with hoods over their heads and what appeared to be ski masks. The employee further reported that one of the men brandished a silver handgun and forced her to the ground. The employee stated that one of the robbers demanded that the employee “open the safe” and said “hurry up or I’ll shoot you” and “give me the money.” A second employee stated that he believed another robber also had a firearm and that he and a customer were forced to the ground. Surveillance footage confirms the witnesses’ accounts and captures the three men entering the store, forcing the employees and customer onto the ground, and taking cash from the registers as well as cigarettes from a display on the back wall. On the surveillance video, one of the robbers is seen wearing a distinctive dark blue Helly Hansen jacket with two white H’s in the back, white rectangular strips on the shoulders, a white logo on the front right breast, and a white zipper in the front. The video

surveillance footage from outside the 7-Eleven shows the three robbers fleeing in what appears to be a light-colored Dodge minivan.

9. On November 16, 2016, at approximately 11:31 p.m., police officers with the Alexandria Police Department responded to a report of an armed robbery at the 7-Eleven located at 800 Franklin Street in Alexandria, Virginia. Witnesses at the scene reported that two black men dressed in black hooded jackets, black pants, and black masks entered the 7-Eleven and robbed the store at gunpoint. One of the employees reported that he was pulled into the back office by one of the robbers, who demanded money and ransacked the desk drawers. That robber then took the employee to the front counter area and ordered the employee to hold plastic bags open while the robber placed cartons of Newport cigarettes inside the plastic bags. Another employee reported that a second robber approached him from behind and placed a silver handgun with a brown handle against the employee's side and demanded money. The employee complied and opened the two cash registers for the gunman. The surveillance video confirms the witnesses' accounts and shows the gunman pointing a large silver revolver-style handgun at one of the employees, who opens the cash register and hands money to the gunman while on his knees. The surveillance video also shows that the gunman wore a black or dark gray hooded coat and black pants with a white marking above the right knee. The other robber wore distinctive black and gray gloves and a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt with Nike's logo, a large gray or white swoosh, on the front.

10. On November 22, 2016, at approximately 9:37 p.m., police officers with the Alexandria Police Department responded to a report of an armed robbery at the 7-Eleven located at 3023 Duke Street in Alexandria, Virginia. An employee at the scene reported that while he was behind the counter, two men entered the store very quickly and one approached him

brandishing a firearm. The other man went into the back area of the store. The employee further reported that the gunman ordered him to the ground, forced him towards one of two cash registers, and ordered him to open the cash registers. The employee opened one of the cash registers and the gunman took money from it. The gunman then forced the employee to open the second register and removed money from that register as well. The employee further reported that after taking money from the cash registers, the armed robber again pointed the gun at the employee, forced the employee to the ground, and told the employee to remain quiet and stay down. The gunman then grabbed five cartons of Newport cigarettes from a nearby stool before fleeing the store on foot with the second robber. The employee saw the second robber leave with a full trash bag, which he later determined contained numerous additional cartons of Newport cigarettes.

11. The video surveillance footage confirms the witness's account. As can be seen on the video recording, the gunman wore a dark gray hooded coat and black pants with a white marking above the right knee just like the gunman at the November 16, 2016 robbery of the Franklin Street 7-Eleven. The video footage shows that the other robber wore black and gray gloves and a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt with Nike's large swoosh on the front just like the second subject who robbed the Franklin Street 7-Eleven on November 16, 2016.

12. On December 6, 2016, at approximately 10:35 p.m., Prince George's County Police responded to the report of an armed robbery of the Dash In located at 11001 Livingston Road in Fort Washington, Maryland. Employees at the scene reported that a man entered the store brandishing a black handgun and another man entered right behind him. The gunman wore a black coat, a gray hoodie, and black pants while the other man wore a dark blue jacket, a dark hoodie, and black pants. The employees reported that the two men ordered the employees to

open the cash registers and they complied. The two men emptied out the cash registers and grabbed a handful of Newport cigarettes before fleeing the scene.

13. On December 7, 2016, at approximately 12:03 a.m., police officers with the Alexandria Police Department responded to a report of an armed robbery of the 7-Eleven located at 2002 Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria, Virginia. An employee reported that he was stocking shelves when two men entered the store, ran up to him, and grabbed him. According to the employee, one of the men displayed a black handgun while the other led him back behind the counter. The employee reported that one of the men ordered him to open the cash register and then told him to get down on the ground. The two men took money from the register before leaving. The video surveillance footage confirms the witness's account as well as his description of the robbers. The footage also shows the robbers taking cigarettes from the wall display behind the counter. As can be seen on the surveillance video, one of the robbers wore a black jacket over a gray hooded sweatshirt with the hood up. The other robber wore what appears to be the very same dark blue Helly Hansen jacket worn by one of the men who robbed the Huntington Avenue 7-Eleven on November 1, 2016.

14. On December 13, 2016, at approximately 10:04 p.m., police officers with the Alexandria Police Department responded to a call of an armed robbery of the 7-Eleven located at 30 South Reynolds Street in Alexandria, Virginia. Witnesses on the scene reported that two black men wearing dark jackets, masks, and gloves entered the 7-Eleven brandishing firearms. An employee reported that one robber, who wore a gray hooded sweatshirt under his dark jacket, approached him, pointed the firearm at him, and ordered him to give the robbers money. The gray hooded robber forced the employee towards a register, ordered the employee to open it, and then took cash from it. According to the employee, when he was slow to open the second

register, the gray hooded robber said to him, "open, open, I'm going to shoot you, open!" The employee complied and the robber took cash from that register as well. Another employee reported that both robbers were displaying firearms and that both grabbed money from the registers.

15. The video surveillance footage confirms the witnesses' accounts and shows that one robber wore a black jacket over a gray hooded sweatshirt with the hood up and dark pants while the other robber wore dark jeans and a blue Helly Hansen jacket over a black Nike sweatshirt with a large swoosh. Witnesses also saw the robbers flee in a vehicle that was parked nearby. A delivery truck driver saw the two robbers run out of the 7-Eleven to a parking lot behind the store and enter what the witness believed was a silver Dodge Dart.

16. Later that same night, about an hour after the armed robbery at the Reynolds Street 7-Eleven, police officers with the Bladensburg Police Department responded to a report of an armed robbery of a 7-Eleven located at 5456 Annapolis Road in Bladensburg, Maryland. The store clerk reported that two black men had just robbed the store at gunpoint. According to the clerk, the first man to enter the store had shoulder length dreads and wore a black ski mask and a black jacket over a gray hooded sweatshirt with the hood over his head. The second subject, who entered immediately after the first subject, wore a black jacket with the hood over his head. The clerk reported that the first subject brandished a small black semi-automatic handgun and ordered the clerk to open the cash drawers. While the first subject took cash from the drawers, the second subject went into the back storage area and took four cartons of Newport cigarettes. The video surveillance footage corroborates the witness's factual account and shows that one of the robbers wore a black Nike hooded sweatshirt with a large light-colored swoosh on the front.



The other robber wore a black jacket over a gray hooded sweatshirt just like the gunman at the Reynolds Street 7-Eleven robbery earlier that same night.

17. On December 15, 2016, at approximately 8:44 p.m., police officers with the Fairfax County Police Department responded to a call of an armed robbery of the Quality Inn located at 7212 Richmond Highway in Alexandria, Virginia. Two employees working at the hotel's front desk reported that they had just been robbed by two black men wearing face masks and all black clothing. One employee reported that one subject entered the hotel's front door and immediately jumped the counter at the front desk, while the other man pointed a firearm at her coworker. The employee further reported that the subject who jumped behind the front desk ordered her to open the register. She complied and the subject took about \$400 from the register. That subject then ran to the kitchen break room, which was locked, and tried to open the locked door without success. He then returned to the front desk and jumped over the counter. That subject and the gunman then ran out the front door. The other employee reported that one of the robbers pointed a black revolver at her and told her to get back and not move. She further reported that the robber who jumped over the counter had dreads.

18. The video surveillance footage corroborates the witnesses' accounts of the robbery. As can be seen on the video, the robber who jumped over the counter wore a blue Helly Hansen jacket that appears to be the same jacket worn by one of the robbers during the November 1, 2016 Huntington Avenue 7-Eleven robbery and the December 7, 2016 Eisenhower Avenue 7-Eleven robbery. Specifically, the jacket has two white H's in the back, white rectangular strips on the shoulders, a white logo on the front right breast, and a white zipper in the front. The video of the Quality Inn robbery shows that the other robber wore a black jacket over a white or gray hooded sweatshirt with the hood up.

19. Surveillance video also captures a silver sedan parked in front of the hotel multiple times prior to the robbery. Shortly before the robbery, a silver sedan that looks like the same vehicle can be seen driving past the Quality Inn and parking down the road from the hotel. The video also captures the two robbers emerging from the dark from where the silver sedan had been (or was) parked. After the robbery, the two robbers ran back to where the silver sedan had been (or was) parked, a car's brake lights went on, and then the car drove away.

20. The surveillance footage from the Quality Inn further captures a black man with long dreadlocks entering the lobby of the hotel in the hour before the robbery, speaking to the employees at the front desk, exiting the hotel, and then entering the same silver sedan. The man wore a dark gray coat and pants that were very similar, if not identical, to those worn by one of the robbers in some of the robberies described above. It is believed that this individual was casing the Quality Inn before the robbery.

21. On December 22, 2016, at approximately 11:01 p.m., police officers from the Prince George's County Police Department responded to a report of an armed robbery of the 7-Eleven located at 4921 Edgewood Road in College Park, Maryland. Two employees reported that three black men wearing ski masks had just robbed the 7-Eleven. According to the witnesses, one of the robbers brandished a black handgun while another robber jumped the front counter, demanded money from the register and safe, and took money from the register as well as cigarettes. One of the witnesses reported that the gunman escorted her to the back of the store and that she told the gunman she did not know the password to the safe. The three robbers fled soon thereafter. As can be seen on surveillance images, one of the robbers wore a blue jacket that appears to be the very same blue Helly Hansen jacket worn by one of the robbers during previous robberies.

22. In March 2017, another string of armed robberies occurred in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area and the perpetrators are believed to be the same individuals who committed the robberies described above. Not only has the *modus operandi* been similar (*i.e.*, the armed robbery of convenience stores and hotels by two or more subjects, the taking of Newport cigarettes as well as cash from registers), but also some of the perpetrators of the recent robberies have worn what appear to be the same articles of clothing worn by the subjects who committed the November and December robberies.

23. On March 16, 2017, at approximately 10:51 p.m., Prince George's County Police responded to a report of an armed robbery at the Dash In convenience store located at 11001 Livingston Road in Fort Washington, Maryland. According to the witnesses, two men wearing black masks and hooded jackets robbed the store and a witness at gunpoint. The witnesses reported that one of the subjects brandished a black machine-style pistol while the other subject demanded money and cigarettes. The subjects stole \$133.90 in cash, approximately 10-15 packs of Newport Cigarettes, and one wallet containing a driver's license, credit cards, and miscellaneous papers. The surveillance video of the robbery captures one of the robbers carrying a large semi-automatic handgun in a white sling. The surveillance video also captures the other robber wearing a distinctive dark-colored jacket with a fur-lined hood.

24. On March 18, 2017, at approximately 7:41 p.m., officers with the Alexandria Police Department responded to a report of a carjacking at 501 Slaters Lane, in Alexandria, Virginia. At the scene, the victim reported that minutes earlier he was robbed of his vehicle, a 2010 Nissan Altima, at gunpoint. The victim stated that he had parked his vehicle in the parking lot of the apartment building located at 501 Slaters Lane and was in the process of unloading items from his vehicle. According to the victim, while standing inside the rear door of the

apartment building, he noticed a black man near his vehicle. The victim reported that upon walking outside of the building to get a closer look at the man, another black man approached him and brandished a black handgun. The gunman then told the victim to put his hands up and then both black men went through his pockets, removing the keys to his vehicle, \$180 in cash, and his mobile phone. The victim further reported that the two black men ran to his Nissan Altima, entered it, and sped away.

25. The stolen Nissan Altima was recovered six days later at 620 Mellon Street, S.E., in Washington, D.C., which is near known residences for GAYLES and DUNCAN. Investigators acquired video footage from a nearby business that captures two black men exiting the Nissan Altima at approximately 7:54 p.m. on March 18, 2017, the same night the vehicle was stolen. The surveillance video also captures the men entering a nearby market. Investigators also obtained surveillance video from the nearby market. That footage shows that at approximately 7:56 p.m. on March 18, 2017, the two men who exited the Nissan Altima enter the market. One of the men strongly resembles Desmar Rashad GAYLES and can be seen wearing a dark gray hooded coat and black pants with a white logo above the knee that are strikingly similar, if not identical, to the dark gray hooded coat and black pants worn by one of the robbers during the November 16, 2016 robbery of the Franklin Street 7-Eleven and the November 22, 2016 robbery of the Duke Street 7-Eleven.

26. Also on March 18, 2017, at approximately 11:23 p.m., Prince George's County Police responded to a report of an armed carjacking at 4427 23rd Parkway, Temple Hills, Maryland. The victims reported that shortly after parking their vehicle, two black men wearing black ski masks approached them and one brandished a dark gray semi-automatic handgun. One of the masked men took the car keys from one of the victims and then both men jumped in the

vehicle and sped away. The vehicle stolen during the carjacking was a gray or silver 2014 Nissan Versa with Maryland temporary tag "T122666." One victim reported that the gunman wore a grayish black puffy coat with fur on the hood.

27. In the early morning hours of March 19, 2017, less than ninety minutes after the armed carjacking in Temple Hills, Maryland, Arlington Police Officers responded to the report of an armed robbery at the Shell Gas Station located at 4060 South Four Mile Run Drive in Arlington, Virginia. The store clerk reported that three black men wearing hooded jackets and black masks had robbed the station at gunpoint. The clerk further reported that the robbers took approximately \$400 from a cash register and approximately \$100.00 from a customer. According to the clerk, the gunman asked where the cigarette cartons were kept and the clerk advised that the store did not have any cartons of cigarettes. The gunman then touched some cigarette packs on the display case but did not take any of them.

28. The store's surveillance footage confirms the witness's account and captures the three men entering the store and one of them brandishing what appears to be a Tec-9 semi-automatic handgun with an extended magazine. The gunman carried the firearm in a white sling draped around his neck and chest. The first robber to enter the store wore a dark-colored jacket with a fur-lined hood just like the one worn by one of the subjects who robbed the Livingston Road Dash In on March 16, 2017. The surveillance footage also captures the three men fleeing in a vehicle matching the description of the Nissan Versa stolen during the Temple Hills carjacking that had taken place earlier that same night. The getaway vehicle appeared to be driven by a fourth subject as the brake lights and the rear wiper were on while the three robbers were inside the store and, immediately following the robbery, one robber entered the front passenger side and the other two entered the rear passenger side of the vehicle.

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
Eastern District of VirginiaIn the Matter of the Search of  
(Briefly describe the property to be searched  
or identify the person by name and address)  
Disclosure of Location-Based Services for

Sprint Spectrum LP Telephone Number (202) 749-9443

Case No. 1:17sw 193

APR 11 2017

## APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property (*identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location*):  
Facilities belonging to Sprint Spectrum LP associated with cellular telephone number (202) 749-9443. This court has authority to issue this warrant under 18 USC §§ 2703(c)(1)(A) and 2711(3)(A) and Fed. Rule of Crim. P. 41.

located in the Unknown District of \_\_\_\_\_, there is now concealed (*identify the person or describe the property to be seized*):

Disclosure of location-based electronic communications data for Sprint Spectrum LP cellular telephone number (202) 749-9443.

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is (*check one or more*):

- ☒ evidence of a crime;  
☐ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;  
☐ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;  
☒ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of:

<i>Code Section</i>	<i>Offense Description</i>
18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(a) & 924(c)	Interference with commerce by robbery and using, carrying, and brandishing a firearm during and in relation to crimes of violence

The application is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit of Jacob D. Farber, FBI Special Agent

- ☒ Continued on the attached sheet.  
☒ Delayed notice of 30 days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days: \_\_\_\_\_) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

Reviewed by AUSA/SAUSA:

Rebeca H. Bellows

*Applicant's signature*

Jacob D. Farber, FBI Special Agent

*Printed name and title*

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 04/11/2017

Theresa Carroll Buchanan  
United States Magistrate Judge

*Judge's signature*

City and state: Alexandria, Virginia

The Hon. Theresa Carroll Buchanan, U.S. Magistrate Judge

*Printed name and title*

29. On March 19, 2017, at approximately 9:12 p.m., Fairfax County Police Officers responded to a report of an armed robbery at the Red Roof Inn located at 5975 Richmond Highway in Alexandria, Virginia. The hotel clerk reported that three black men wearing black ski masks robbed the hotel at gunpoint. According to the clerk, two of the men brandished firearms and all three proceeded behind the counter and took approximately \$100 from the drawers located at the center of the counter. The robbers then attempted to have the clerk open the safe located behind the counter, but were unsuccessful as the clerk informed them that the safe had a time delay and would not open for ten minutes. At this time, one of the robbers struck the clerk in the face. The three subjects then entered the office located to the rear of the front counter and stole approximately \$2,000 to \$2,500 in cash from a desk drawer.

30. The surveillance footage confirms the clerk's account and captures one robber holding in a white sling what appears to be a Tec-9 semi-automatic handgun with an extended magazine. Surveillance footage also captures this same robber wearing a dark gray hooded coat similar, if not identical, to the coat worn by GAYLES on March 18, 2017, and by one of the robbers during the November 16, 2016 robbery of the Franklin Street 7-Eleven and the November 22, 2016 robbery of the Duke Street 7-Eleven. The surveillance video of the Red Roof Inn robbery also shows that one of the robbers wore a dark Nike hooded sweatshirt with a large light-colored swoosh on the front, just like the one worn by one of the robbers during the November 16, 2016 robbery of the Franklin Street 7-Eleven, the November 22, 2016 robbery of the Duke Street 7-Eleven, the December 13, 2016 robbery of the Reynolds Street 7-Eleven, and the December 13, 2016 robbery of the Annapolis Road 7-Eleven. The robber who wore the dark Nike sweatshirt also brandished a black handgun at the clerk.

31. Later that same night, a little over an hour after the Red Roof robbery, Alexandria Police Officers responded to a report of an armed robbery at the Domino's Pizza located at 5418 Duke Street in Alexandria, Virginia. Witnesses reported that three black men wearing black masks robbed the store at gunpoint. The surveillance footage captures one of the masked men holding what appears to be a Tec-9 semi-automatic handgun with an extended magazine while another subject removed cash from a register. The surveillance footage also shows that all three subjects are wearing clothing similar to that worn by the men who robbed the Red Roof Inn earlier that same night, including the dark Nike hooded sweatshirt with a large light-colored swoosh on the front. The surveillance footage also captures the gunman wearing a dark gray hooded coat and black pants with a white marking above the right knee similar, if not identical, to clothing seen on one of the robbers in prior robberies. An alley camera captures all three subjects entering a silver 4-door hatchback with a temporary tag beginning with "T1." The vehicle strongly resembles the Nissan Versa that was stolen during the carjacking on March 18, 2017, in Temple Hills, Maryland.

32. On March 21, 2017, at approximately 6:17 p.m., Prince George's County Police officers responded to a report of an armed robbery at the Game Stop located at 5706 Silver Hill Road, District Heights, Maryland. Witnesses reported that three black men wearing black masks entered the store and one brandished a firearm. The description of the firearm is consistent with a Tec-9 semi-automatic handgun. According to the witnesses, the three masked men demanded money and took \$900.00 in cash from a register. The witnesses further reported that the robbers forced the witnesses to the rear of the store at gunpoint. After doing so, the three masked men stole two PlayStation 4 Systems, three XBOX One Consoles, and numerous video games.



Surveillance footage confirms the witnesses' accounts. As can be seen on the video, one of the robbers wore a dark Nike hooded sweatshirt with a large light-colored swoosh on the front.

33. On March 26, 2017, Metropolitan Police Officers reported to 941 Shepherd Street in response to a report of an armed carjacking. At the scene, the victim reported that at approximately 1:15 a.m., three black men wearing black clothing and black masks approached him as he was exiting his vehicle, a red 2015 Mazda MX3. According to the victim, one of the men brandished a black handgun and ordered the victim to relinquish his car keys. In addition to taking the victim's keys, the three men removed from the victim's pockets his mobile phone and wallet, which contained cash and credit cards. The gunman entered the driver's seat of the Mazda and the other two subjects jumped into the front passenger seat and the back seat. The three men then fled in the stolen vehicle.

34. At approximately 2:40 a.m. that same night, officers with the Alexandria Police Department responded to a report of an armed robbery at the 7-Eleven located at 800 Franklin Street in Alexandria, Virginia. At the scene, a store clerk reported that at around 2:30 a.m., two black men wearing black masks robbed the 7-Eleven at gunpoint. According to the store clerk, one of the men brandished a handgun and ordered that the store clerk open the register while the other subject walked straight to the storage room. The store clerk complied by unlocking both registers and the gunman removed cash from the registers. The gunman also ordered the store clerk to provide him with a bag. The store clerk further reported that he and the gunman walked to the storage room to get a black garbage bag. Upon entering the storage room, the store clerk saw the other subject rummaging through drawers. Before exiting the 7-Eleven, the gunman placed approximately eleven cartons of Newport Methol in the black garbage bag. Both subjects then fled the store with approximately \$250 in cash and the cartons of cigarettes. They jumped

into an awaiting dark sedan and fled the area, which matched the description of the red 2015 Mazda MX3 that had been stolen during the carjacking earlier that same night. The store clerk advised that the gunman had braids or dreadlocks and wore a gray jacket and that the other robber wore a black Nike sweater with a white swoosh on the chest.

35. The surveillance footage corroborated the witness's account of the robbery. The footage also captures one robber brandishing what appears to be a black handgun. In the video, the gunman is wearing a gray hooded jacket and black pants with a white marking above the knee. Such clothing is strikingly similar, if not identical, to the clothing worn by one of the robbers in some of the robberies described above as well as by the man, believed to be GAYLES, who exited the stolen Nissan Altima and entered a nearby market on March 18, 2017. The surveillance video of the March 26, 2017 robbery of the Franklin Street 7-11 also captures the other robber wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt with a large Nike swoosh on the front and purple gloves.

36. Approximately 90 minutes after the Franklin Street 7-Eleven was robbed, Prince George's County police officers responded to a report of an armed robbery at the 7-Eleven located at 8905 Rhode Island Avenue in College Park, Maryland. A witness at the scene reported that at approximately 4:00 a.m., two black men wearing black ski masks and dark hooded clothing robbed the store at gunpoint. According to the witness, one of the men had long dreads and brandished a black semi-automatic handgun. The witness further reported that the other robber wore a black hoodie with a gray Nike swoosh on the front. Surveillance cameras captured the robbery and the footage corroborates the witness's account. The footage shows that the gunman wore a gray hooded coat and that the other robber wore a dark hooded sweatshirt with a large Nike swoosh and purple gloves. Surveillance footage also shows the two men

running to and jumping into the passenger side of an awaiting red four-door sedan, which matches the description of the 2015 Mazda MX3 that was stolen during the carjacking that occurred earlier that same night.

37. On March 29, 2017, at approximately 5:42 p.m., Fairfax County police officers responded to a report of a robbery at the Advance America Cash Advance store located at 7289 Commerce Street in Springfield, Virginia. At the scene, a store clerk reported that two men wearing hooded clothing and masks ran into the store, jumped the counter, and yelled “open up” and “where’s the safe.” The clerk told officers that she put her hands in the air and told the two men that she did not have a safe. The two men ordered the clerk to open the cash drawers and the clerk complied. The two men then left with \$3,650 in cash that belonged to the Advance America Cash Advance store. The clerk advised that she did not see any weapon or hear any reference to a weapon. The surveillance footage corroborates the store clerk’s account and also shows that one of the robbers wore a dark hooded sweatshirt with a large light-colored Nike swoosh on the front.

38. All the business establishments described above were engaged in commercial activity and the robbery of each establishment affected interstate commerce.

#### Initial Identification of Other Suspects

39. Until March 29, 2017, based in large part on information provided by a person (hereinafter referred to as “the Tipster”) who called the FBI Public Access Line on January 17, 2017, FBI agents working on the investigation of the string of robberies had identified as possible suspects three individuals who do not appear to be acquainted with GAYLES or DUNCAN. The caller, who hereinafter will be referred to as “the Tipster,” contacted the FBI Public Access Line after the FBI issued a press release containing still images of the robbers

from several of the surveillance videos of the November and December 2016 robberies. The press release also contained a link to a YouTube posting of a compilation of surveillance video clips from the December 15, 2016 Quality Inn robbery. During his January 17, 2017 call to the FBI, the Tipster identified two men who he believed could be responsible for the string of robberies in November and December 2016. The Tipster identified both men by name and they will hereinafter be referred to by their initials, NF and ST.

40. The Tipster reported that NF was his friend and that ST was NF's friend. According to the Tipster, NF frequently stayed at the Tipster's residence on weekends and ST often accompanied NF to the Tipster's home. The Tipster stated that the previous week (mid-January 2017), he had found two face masks in his home and he believed they belonged to NF. The Tipster further stated that after looking at the still images and video of the robberies that were posted online by the FBI, he believed that NF and ST were responsible for the series of armed robberies. The Tipster also reported on January 17, 2017, that ST always wears a Nike sweatshirt and a face mask that he rolls up and wears as a hat.

41. On February 5, 2017, NF was arrested in Prince William County on charges of forging and uttering. He has remained in state custody pending trial on those charges ever since then. As a result, NF has never been a suspect in connection with the March 2017 robberies.

42. On February 15, 2017, the government obtained two court orders requiring service providers to provide historical cell-site data for mobile phones the government had reason to believe belonged to NF and ST. The requested records were for the period October 12, 2016, to January 11, 2017. The cell-site records for ST's mobile phone showed that the phone activated cell-sites within ten miles of the following locations within half an hour of the robbery: the Huntington Avenue 7-Eleven (November 1, 2016) and the Duke Street 7-Eleven (November

22, 2016). For the remaining robberies, ST's mobile phone did not activate any cell-site towers within a half hour of the robbery so the phone's proximity to the robbery locations around the times of the robbery could not be determined.

43. The cell-site records for NF's mobile phone, which became active on November 8, 2016, show that NF's phone only once activated a cell-site near a robbery location. Specifically, on November 22, 2016, NF's phone activated a cell-site within ten miles of the Duke Street 7-Eleven within an hour of that robbery. The cell-site records further reflect that NF's mobile phone activated cell-site towers far from the following robbery locations within an hour of the robberies: Livingston Road Dash In (December 6, 2016); Eisenhower Avenue 7-Eleven (December 7, 2016); South Reynolds Street 7-Eleven (December 13, 2016); Richmond Highway Quality Inn (December 15, 2016); and Edgewood Road 7-Eleven (December 22, 2016). Consequently, the cell-site records for NF's mobile phone did not corroborate the Tipster's belief that NF was involved in the November and December 2016 robberies.

44. On March 21, 2017, the Tipster identified another individual (hereinafter "JC"), whom he believed might have been involved in the string of robberies. On that date, the Tipster reviewed surveillance stills from some of the robberies committed in November and December 2016. The Tipster stated that some of the individuals in the stills resembled NF, ST, and JC. The Tipster stated that he recognized as his a pair of sweatpants and a gray hooded sweatshirt worn by one of the robbers in some of the November and December robberies. The Tipster also added that he believed ST was one of the robbers because ST wears a Nike sweatshirt and rolls up his pant legs as did one of the robbers in the surveillance stills. With respect to JC, the Tipster reported that on the evening of March 18, 2017, he observed an acquaintance of JC showing JC a .22 caliber pistol before JC and his acquaintance left the Tipster's home. Officers

working on this investigation have not found any evidence to corroborate the Tipster's claim that ST wears a Nike sweatshirt and rolls up his pant legs or that on March 18, 2017, JC was with a man who was in possession of a .22 caliber pistol.

Evidence Linking GAYLES and DUNCAN to the String of Robberies

45. At approximately 7:35 p.m. on March 29, 2017, less than two hours after the robbery of the Advance America Cash Advance store in Springfield, MPD officers observed ANDREW BERNARD DUNCAN dispose of a black and silver handgun. Shortly thereafter, DUNCAN was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a firearm. At the time of his arrest, DUNCAN was wearing a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt with a large, light-colored Nike swoosh logo on the front. In addition, during a search incident to his arrest, DUNCAN was found in possession of the Device as well as \$3,659 in cash, just \$9 more than what was stolen from the Advance America Cash Advance store earlier that evening.

46. Law enforcement have also discovered photographs of DUNCAN wearing other articles of clothing that appear to be the same as those worn by one of the robbers. Based on postings made by the user, investigators have reason to believe that DUNCAN uses the Facebook username "Bissle Missmydawg Gadget." On November 17, 2016, the user of that account posted a photograph of DUNCAN wearing a jacket that bears a striking resemblance to the distinctive dark blue Helly Hansen jacket that one of the robbers wore during the November 1, 2016 robbery of the Huntington Avenue 7-Eleven, the December 6, 2016 robbery of the Livingston Road Dash In, the December 7, 2016 robbery of the Eisenhower Avenue 7-Eleven, and the December 22, 2016 robbery of the Edgewood Road 7-Eleven. Moreover, on March 19, 2017, the same day of the early morning robbery of the Four Mile Run Shell Gas Station, the user of the "Bissle Missmydawg Gadget" account posted images of four African American men

posing on a sidewalk, one of whom is flashing numerous bills of unknown denomination. Two of the four men are DUNCAN and GAYLES. In the images, DUNCAN is wearing a dark-colored parka with a fur-lined hood that appears to be the very same coat worn by one of the robbers during the March 19, 2017 robbery of the Four Mile Run Shell Gas Station as well as the March 16, 2017 robbery of the Livingston Road Dash In.

47. The images posted on the Bissle Missmydawg Gadget page on March 19, 2017, also constitute circumstantial evidence of GAYLES' participation in the robbery spree. In the posted images, GAYLES is wearing black pants with a small white Helly Hansen logo above the right knee and tan boots. Both the pants and the boots bear a striking resemblance to items worn by one of the robbers during some of the robberies described above. In addition, GAYLES has dreads in the posted images, and some of the robbery victims reported that one of the robbers had dreads.

48. As previously stated, on March 18, 2017, surveillance cameras in Washington, D.C., captured a man who strongly resembles GAYLES exiting a stolen Nissan Altima and entering a nearby market. On that surveillance footage, the man believed to be GAYLES is wearing what appears to be the very same gray hooded coat worn by one of the robbers during many of the robberies.

49. In addition, cell-site tower records indicate that GAYLES was near some of the robbery locations around the time of the robberies. Local law enforcement officers investigating robberies in their jurisdictions obtained court orders requiring service providers with cellular telephone towers ("cell towers") near some of the robbery locations to disclose certain records and information associated with the cell towers. The requested records and information included the telephone call number and unique identifiers for each wireless device in the vicinity of the

cell towers that registered with a tower near a robbery location around the time of the robbery. Upon reviewing the information provided by the service providers, which information is commonly referred to as “tower dumps,” investigators determined that the phone assigned the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER activated towers near the following commercial establishments within ten minutes of the robbery at that location: the Dash In located at 11001 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland (December 6, 2016); and the 7-Eleven located at 5456 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, Maryland (December 13, 2016). When, on March 16, 2017, the Livingston Road Dash In was again robbed, the phone assigned the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER activated a cell tower near that location within forty-five minutes of the robbery. In addition, the records further reflect that the phone assigned the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER activated a cellular tower servicing the area where the Nissan Versa was carjacked on March 18, 2017, within twenty minutes of the carjacking. According to a reliable public source database used by law enforcement, billing information associated with the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER reflects GAYLES as the owner or user of that mobile phone.

50. Investigation has revealed that the phone assigned the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER is a mobile phone serviced by Sprint Spectrum LP.

51. On April 6, 2017, the Honorable John F. Anderson, United States Magistrate Judge, entered an order requiring Sprint Spectrum LP to disclose to the United States Attorney’s Office and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) stored wire and electronic transactional records, including subscriber information, call-detail records, historical cell-site information or data, and per call measurement data (if available), related to the use of the cellular telephone assigned the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER for the period from October 12, 2016, to January 11, 2017, and the period from February 24, 2017, to March 30, 2017.



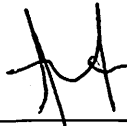
52. On the afternoon of April 7, 2017, Sprint Spectrum LP disclosed stored wire and electronic transactional records in accordance with the Court's Order. The subscriber records reflect that the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER is subscribed by DESMAR GAYLES. Those records further reflect that the phone assigned the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER activated cell-site towers near each of the following robbery or carjacking locations within an hour of the crime:

- Dash In, 11001 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland (December 6, 2016)
- 7-Eleven, 5456 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, Maryland (December 13, 2016)
- Quality Inn, 7212 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Virginia (December 15, 2016)
- Dash In, 11001 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland (March 16, 2017)
- Nissan Altima carjacking, 501 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, Virginia (March 18, 2017)
- Nissan Versa carjacking, 4427 23<sup>rd</sup> Parkway, Temple Hills, Maryland (March 18, 2017)
- Mazda MX3, 941 Shepherd Street, NW, Washington, D.C. (March 26, 2017)
- 7-Eleven, 800 Franklin Street, Alexandria, Virginia (March 26, 2017)
- 7-Eleven, 8905 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, Maryland (March 26, 2017)

Indeed, for four of these six robberies and two of the three carjackings, the cell site records for the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER show the phone assigned that number activated a cell tower in close proximity to the robbery or carjacking location within ten minutes of the robbery. The cell-site records further indicate that GAYLES was not near the Shell Gas Station located at 4060 South Four Mile Run Drive in Arlington, Virginia, around the time of the robbery on March 19, 2017. The cell-site records reflect that on that date, the phone assigned the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER activated a cell-site tower far from the Four Mile Run Shell Gas Station around the time of the robbery. For the remaining robberies, however, the phone's location around the time of the robberies could not be determined based on the cell-site data produced by Sprint Spectrum LP on April 10, 2017.

**Conclusion**

53. Based on the foregoing, there is probable cause to believe that GAYLES is presently utilizing the mobile phone assigned the SUBJECT TELEPHONE NUMBER, and that disclosure of prospective location-based data for that mobile phone will assist law enforcement in effectuating GAYLES' arrest and securing evidence of GAYLES' unlawful activities.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacob D. Farber  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed and sworn to me this 11<sup>th</sup> day April, 2017.



\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Theresa Carroll Buchanan  
United States Magistrate Judge  
The Honorable Theresa Carroll Buchanan  
United States Magistrate Judge